

kilometres to Quito were accomplished in second gear, descending from 4,500 m to 1,200 m and back up to 3000. I was reissued with a clapped out VW Beetle that had 80,000 km on the clock — it had been thoroughly tested in action (and worked well for the rest of my trip). I was ready to face the more pleasant hazards of the Amazonia.

How high are butterflies found in the mountains of the tropics? Certainly quite a lot higher than I saw them on Cotopaxi. The Bolivian *Piercolias huanaco* is reputed to have been collected at 5,800 metres, and in the Himalayas *Parnassius acco* has a few permanent colonies at the same level. Species of Neotropical *Phulia*, tiny Pierids, are regularly collected at 5,000 m and in the Himalayas the very similar *Baltia butleri* occurs to at least 5,300 m. I wish anyone wanting to collect them the very best of luck, but I am sure that some day we shall have a record of the Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) hilltopping on Mt. Everest.— TORBEN B. LARSEN, 358 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PL.

***Eupithecia tripunctaria* H.-S. (Lep.: Geometridae) — a partial second brood**

In August 1986 I obtained a few ova from a female *tripunctaria* and found wild larvae on the flowers of wild angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*). The larvae pupated in the autumn and the moths emerged in May 1987.

In May 1989 I obtained a few ova from a female *tripunctaria* and fed the resulting larva on the flowers of hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). They pupated a few weeks later but I had only three pupae. One hatched on 31.7.89 and the remaining two pupae showed no signs of development of the moth. One of them died in the autumn and I now have the one remaining pupa which is alive. I anticipate that it will hatch in May 1990. Therefore, *tripunctaria* has a partial second brood. It seems to me that this explains the current difficulties over voltinism which have been discussed in recent articles. All the above moths and larvae were from Abbotskerswell, Devon.— Dr B.P. HENWOOD, 4 The Paddocks, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Double-brooded *Eupithecia tripunctaria* Herrich-Schaeffer (Lep.: Geometridae)

The authors of several recent notes on *Eupithecia tripunctaria* Herrich-Schaeffer (B.K. West *antea* 101: 57; G.M. Haggett *antea* 101: 184; A.M. Emmet *antea* 101: 185 and E.C.L. Simson *antea* 101: 278) appear to have overlooked my two notes in the *Entomologist's Gazette* (*Ent. Gaz.* 35: 76 and *ibid.* 36: 104). In the first I stated that I had reared *E. tripunctaria* from larvae on elder flowers several times, but that adults had always emerged the following spring. I speculated that the earliest hatching May females might lay their eggs on *Anthriscus*, the only umbellifer commonly available

to flower and seed feeding larvae at that time, whereas those laying later might prefer elder, *Heracleum* or *Angelica*.

In my second paper I noted that out of ten larvae obtained from elderflowers in late June 1984, I obtained eight pupae from which three moths emerged at the end of July, while the rest lay over until 1985.

This of course renders my earlier hypothesis invalid; however Haggett *did* rear larvae on *Anthriscus*, but has anyone ever found larvae on *Anthriscus* in the wild?

Thus it is clear that at least a proportion of May-June females lay eggs on elder which produce pupae which may hatch in July-August or lie over until the following spring. There are still two perplexing questions: whereas I find larvae on elder annually in modest numbers, Haggett only did so in 1978. I shall not attempt to answer this.

The second question concerns the failure of both Haggett and myself (before 1984) to rear second brood adults from early summer larvae. While I cannot answer this entirely satisfactorily, I can provide a few ideas which may merit further investigation. When making elderflower wine (this being the circumstance under which I find my larvae), I wait until the flower heads are beginning to go over, at which time the flowers strip most readily from their stalks. By this time some of the larvae are full-grown and pupate very soon afterwards. It is quite possible that many larvae may have reached this stage and left the plants before I pick my flowers, and such early larvae would be more likely to produce adults in the same season. My pre-1984 larva samples were of very small numbers, and may not have been looked after very well (which would retard them). In order to produce equal numbers of July and May adults, it would be necessary, in the wild, for the number of pupae lying over to be several times greater than those producing the second brood. This is due to the greater length of time spent in the pupal stage, and the difference could be further increased by the intervention of winter. On this basis any random sample of larvae is likely to contain a high proportion of potential overwinterers. Finally, the proportion of moths emerging in the same season is doubtless greatly influenced by the mid-summer temperatures; this is reflected in the varying numbers appearing in summer in different years.— M.F.V. CORLEY, Pucketty Farm Cottage, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8JP.

***Scydmaenus rufus* Müll. & Kunze (Col.: Scydmaenidae) apparently new to Kent.**

It is somewhat remarkable that no Kent record appears to exist for this scarce south-eastern species; at least, I have been unable to trace one. I was interested, therefore, to come upon a specimen under bark of a fallen oak branch in the woods at Chislehurst, W. Kent, on the southern fringe of Greater London (12.x.89). Other beetles present under the bark were *Carpophilus sexpustulatus* F. in plenty and a few *Orthoperus mundus* Matth.